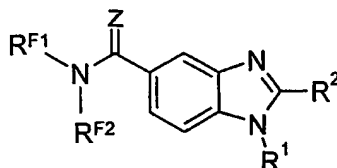


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What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

R^{F1} and R^{F2} are independently C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one or more groups selected from -F, -Cl, -Br, -NO₂, -CN, -OH, -CHO, -C(=O)-R' and -OR', wherein R' is a C_{1-3} alkyl;

Z is selected from O= and S=;

- 10 R^1 is selected from C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{2-10} alkynyl, $R^3R^4N-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, R^3O-C_{1-6} alkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $R^3R^4NS(=O)_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $R^3CS(=O)_2N(-R^4)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $R^3R^4NC(=O)N(-R^5)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $R^3R^4NS(=O)_2N(R^5)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl- $C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, R^3R^4N- , R^3O- , $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-$, $R^3R^4NS(=O)_2-$,
 15 $R^3CS(=O)_2N(-R^4)-$, $R^3R^4NC(=O)N(-R^5)-$, $R^3R^4NS(=O)_2N(R^5)-$, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl- $C(=O)-$, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl and C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-$; wherein said C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{2-10} alkynyl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl- $C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{1-10} hydrocarbylamino, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl- $C(=O)-$,
 20 C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl or C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-$ used in defining R^1 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, and R^3R^4N- ;

- R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{2-10} alkynyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, R^3R^4N- , C_{3-5} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl and C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, wherein
 25 said C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{2-10} alkynyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl or C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl used in defining R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and
 30 R^3R^4N- ; and

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R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, and a divalent C_{1-6} group that together with another divalent C_{1-6} group selected from R^3 and R^4 forms a portion of a ring.

5 2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R^{F1} and R^{F2} are independently selected from -CF₃, -CH₂CF₃, -CH₂CHF₂, -CHFCHF₃, -CHFCHF₂, -CHFCH₂F, -CF₂CF₃, -CF₂CH₃, -CF₂CH₂F, -CF₂CHF₂, -CF₃, -CH₂CCl₃, -CH₂CHCl₂, -CH₂CBr₃, -CH₂CHBr₂, -CH₂NO₂, -CH₂CH₂NO₂, -CH₂CN, -CH₂CH₂CN, and -CH₂CH₂OCH₃;

10 Z is O=;

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, $R^3R^4N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, R^3O-C_{1-4} alkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl-C(=O)- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl-C(=O)- C_{1-4} alkyl, R^3R^4N- , R^3O- , $R^3R^4NS(=O)_2-$, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl-C(=O)-, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl and C_{3-6} heterocyclyl-C(=O)-; wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl-C(=O)- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl-C(=O)- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl-C(=O)-, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl or C_{3-6} heterocyclyl-C(=O)- used in defining R^1 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and R^3R^4N- ;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, R^3R^4N- , phenyl and C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, phenyl or C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl used in defining R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and R^3R^4N- ; and

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{2-6} alkenyl.

30 3. A compound as claimed claim 1, wherein

R^{F1} and R^{F2} are independently selected from -CF₃, -CH₂CF₃, -CH₂CHF₂, -CHFCHF₃, -CHFCHF₂, -CHFCH₂F, -CF₂CF₃, -CF₂CH₃, -CF₂CH₂F, -CF₂CHF₂, and -CF₃;

Z is O=;

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R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, R^3R^4N- , $R^3R^4N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, R^3O-C_{1-4} alkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl and C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-$; wherein said

5 C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, $R^3R^4N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, R^3O-C_{1-4} alkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl or C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-$ used in defining R^1 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy

10 and R^3R^4N- ;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, R^3R^4N- , C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, and phenyl wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, and phenyl used in

15 defining R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and R^3R^4N- ; and

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{2-6} alkenyl.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

20 R^{F1} and R^{F2} are $-CH_2CF_3$;

Z is $O=$;

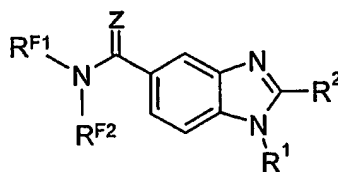
R^1 is selected from cyclohexylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopropylmethyl, ethyl, propyl, adamantyl, adamantylmethyl, allyl, isopentyl, benzyl, methoxyethyl, tetrahydropyranylmethyl, tetrahydrofuranylmethyl, cyclohexyloxy,

25 cyclohexylamino, dimethylaminoethyl, 4-pyridylmethyl, 2-pyridylmethyl, 1-pyrrolylethyl, 1-morpholinoethyl, 4,4-difluorocyclohexylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 2-pyrrolidylmethyl, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl, 2-piperidylmethyl, N-methyl-2-piperidylmethyl, 3-thienylmethyl, (2-nitrothiophene-5-yl)-methyl, (1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)methyl, (5-(acetoxymethyl)-2-furyl)methyl, (2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindole-1-yl)methyl, and 5-(2-methylthiazolyl); and

30 R^2 is selected from t-butyl, n-butyl, 2-methyl-2-butyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, N-piperidyl, dimethylamino, phenyl, pyridyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, 2-methoxy-2-propyl, and N-morpholinyl.

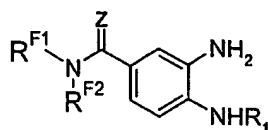
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5. A compound selected from 2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
- 5 6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-5 for use as a medicament.
7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain.
- 10 8. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of anxiety disorders.
9. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders and cardiovascular disorders..
- 15 10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 20 11. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.
12. A method for preparing a compound of formula I,

I

comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula II,

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II

with a compound of $R^2C(=O)-X$ to form the compound of formula I,

wherein

- 5 R^{F1} and R^{F2} are independently selected from $-CF_3$, $-CH_2CF_3$, $-CH_2CHF_2$, $-CHFCH_3$, $-CHFCHF_2$, $-CHFCH_2F$, $-CF_2CF_3$, $-CF_2CH_3$, $-CF_2CH_2F$, $-CF_2CHF_2$, and $-CF_3$;

Z is selected from $O=$ and $S=$;

X is selected from $-Cl$, $-Br$, $-I$, $-OH$, $-OCH_3$, and $-OCH_2CH_3$;

R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, $R^3R^4N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, R^3O-C_{1-4} alkyl,

- 10 $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl and C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-$; wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, $R^3R^4N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, R^3O-C_{1-4} alkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(-R^4)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, phenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocyclyl or C_{3-6} heterocyclyl- $C(=O)-$ used in defining R^1 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, and R^3R^4N- ;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, R^3R^4N- ,

- 20 C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, and phenyl wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-5} heteroaryl, and phenyl used in defining R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and amino; and

- 25 R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from $-H$, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{2-6} alkenyl.